

# First Official Exposure of Germany's Spy System's Activities in United States

## WORK OF PLANTERS SHOWN TO COVER WHOLE COUNTRY

### Secret Service Evidence That Proves German Duplicity

(Continued from First Page.)

That Bernstorff was familiar and in active touch with the bureau is shown by the reproduction of letters to and from that official.

**Poised As a Friend.**  
While Germany as a friend her agents in the United States were concerned with.

Violation of the laws of the United States.

Destruction of lives and property in merchant vessels on the high seas. Irish revolutionary plots against Great Britain.

Fomenting ill-feeling against the United States in Mexico.

Subornation of American writers and lecturers.

Financing of propaganda.

Maintenance of a spy system under the guise of a commercial investigation bureau.

Subsidizing of a bureau for the purpose of stirring up labor troubles in munition plants.

The bomb industry and other related activities.

The official exposure, issued by the Committee on Public Information today, says:

Within a few days a German newspaper published in this country employed as the headline an article dealing with a rumor of German-American disaffection in this country the derisive legend, "Lieb Washington, magst ruhig sein."

This is, of course, a parody on the refrain of "Die Wacht am Rhein," the German national hymn:

"Lieb Vaterland, magst ruhig sein."

"Loved fatherland, be restful (or undisturbed)."

In the parody it carries a sneer comprehensible only to one who understands the German mode of speech and thought.

Of itself the instance is slightly. But it typifies a certain important phase of the German propaganda, which subtly but persistently seeks to present Germany in America in the most favorable light, even to the extent of defending the improper activities of the Teutonic diplomatic representatives before their passports were given them.

Because of this attitude, certain documents in the possession of the Department of Justice now assume peculiar importance, in that they prove undeniably the intimate relations between the accredited representatives of the Kaiser in the United States and plotters against the laws and the security of this country, whose enterprise did not fall short of projected wholesale destruction of life and property.

Such of these documents as were essential to legal proceedings brought against the Germans have been published. Others are here made public for the first time. They form a curious, if disjointed, chapter, in the diplomatic history of the war.

**A Big, Suave Man.**

In the fall of 1914, when the German plots against Canada were fomenting in this country, there was established, at 60 Wall Street, an "advertising" office presided over by a big, suave man of Teutonic aspect named Wolf Igel.

There were two peculiar features about this office. One was that it was frequented during the day by a quiet, unassuming, and unobtrusive Englishman by the name of Otto West.

The other was a large safe, bearing the insignia of the German Imperial government. To this office there came one morning in April, 1916, while Von Igel was preparing a mass of papers which he had taken from the safe for transfer to the German embassy in Washington, four United States Secret Service agents from the Department of Justice, who made their way to the safe for transfer to the German embassy in Washington, four United States Secret Service agents from the Department of Justice, who made their way to the safe for transfer to the German embassy in Washington.

The German was large, powerful, and brave. With the aid of one of the officers, he stubbornly fought the officers, striving to rescue the papers, to close the safe, to get to the telephone and communicate with his superior officers. They produced no effect upon the intrepid Von Igel.

"This is German territory," he shouted. "Shoot me and you will bring on war."

**Papers Are Seized.**

There was no shooting. But after a protracted struggle the defenders were overpowered and the papers seized. The German embassy at once entered its protest. These were official papers. They were sacrosanct. The diplomatic prerogative of a friendly nation had been overridden, and the person of its representative insulted. To this the State Department replied that the invaded premises at 60 Wall Street were described in the contract as a private business office for the carrying on of advertising, and that Von Igel had not been formally accredited as a German representative. When the papers were examined by the Department of Justice the reason for Von Igel's determined fight became apparent. Here, in the form of letters, telegrams, notes, checkbooks, receipts, ledgers, cash books, cipher code, lists of spies, and other memoranda and records, were found indications—in some instances of the vaguest nature, in others of the most damning character—concerning the German Imperial government, through its representatives in a then friendly nation, was concerned with:

Violation of the laws of the United States.

Destruction of lives and property in merchant vessels on the high seas.

Irish revolutionary plots against Great Britain.

Fomenting ill-feeling against the United States in Mexico.

Subornation of American writers and lecturers.

Financing of propaganda.

Maintenance of a spy system under the guise of a commercial investigation bureau.

Subsidizing of a bureau for the purpose of stirring up labor troubles in munition plants.

The bomb industry and other related activities.

**Was Secret Service.**

Perhaps the most illuminating single document in the collection is a letter of July 20, 1915, here reproduced as it appeared upon the station-

ery of the "Bureau of Investigation."

This innocent, pretentious agency was at the outset the secret service of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company. Under Paul Koenig, its manager, it became an adjunct to the German diplomatic secret service.

"XXX" is the secret designation of Koenig, who is now under indictment on criminal charges in connection with his "diplomatic" work, and is interned at Fort Oglethorpe. The person represented by the figure "7000" is Captain von Papen, former military attaché of the German embassy and the practical executor of its underground system. The document, as may be seen in the reproduction, describes the subterfuges of "XXX" so that he might not be identified by the mysterious "7000" when they met. "XXX" states that money was to be drawn for the payment of \$150 to the unnamed person, under regular precautions, through "Check No. 146 on the Riggs National Bank, Washington, dated July 16, payable to ———— signed ———— \$150. No reason was given as to why the payment was made," says the report.

Several days after the payment, the recipient called at the "passenger office" of the Line, and made a statement which is thus embodied in the XXX report.

"My name is ————, I have an office at ———— building, but I do not care to state my local address. I intend to cause serious damage to vessels of the allies leaving ports of the United States by placing bombs which I am making myself on board. These bombs resemble ordinary lumps of coal, and I am planning to have them concealed in the coal to be laden on steamers of the allies."

**A Sample Bomb.**

Finally XXX states that "the caller" brought with him a sample bomb, "such as has been described to you by the subscriber," and asks for the instructions.

The document is lettered at the foot, "O. R. to 7000, indicating that the secret agent known as "O. R." had transmitted it to Von Papen.

Now for the proof, direct and unescapable. Check 146 on the Riggs National Bank has been traced and added to the Secret Service collection. It is payable to Koenig and signed by Von Papen. Therefore Von Papen stands convicted on the evidence of a report claimed as an official document by the Germans, of paying money to a plotter designing to blow up merchant ships sailing from the port of New York. The person who made this report is known to Department of Justice officials.

Compare these documents with the following authorized statement from Berlin, transmitted by wireless for publication in the New York Times in December, 1915:

"The German government has, naturally, never knowingly accepted the support of any person, group or person, who has been described to you by the subscriber, and asks for the instructions."

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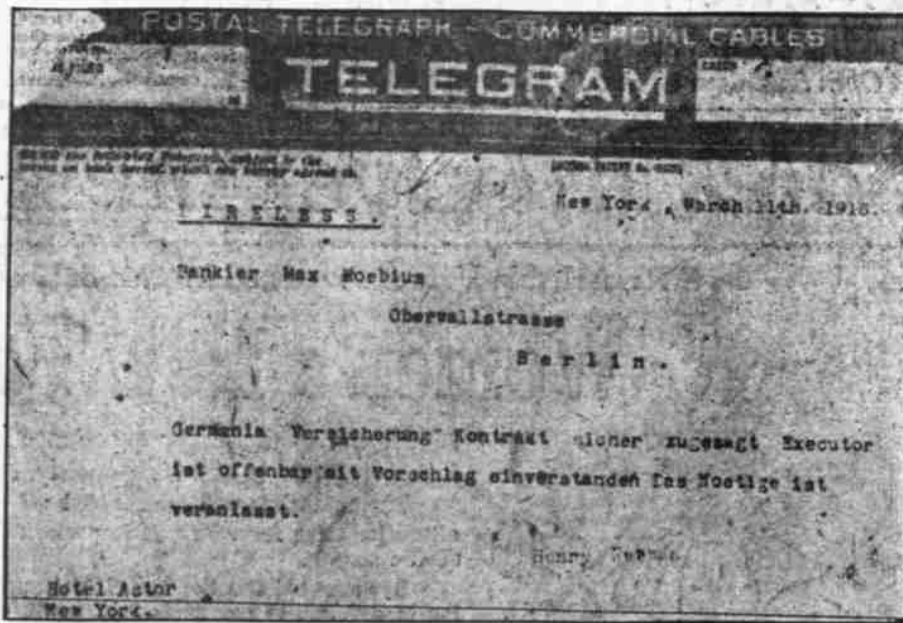
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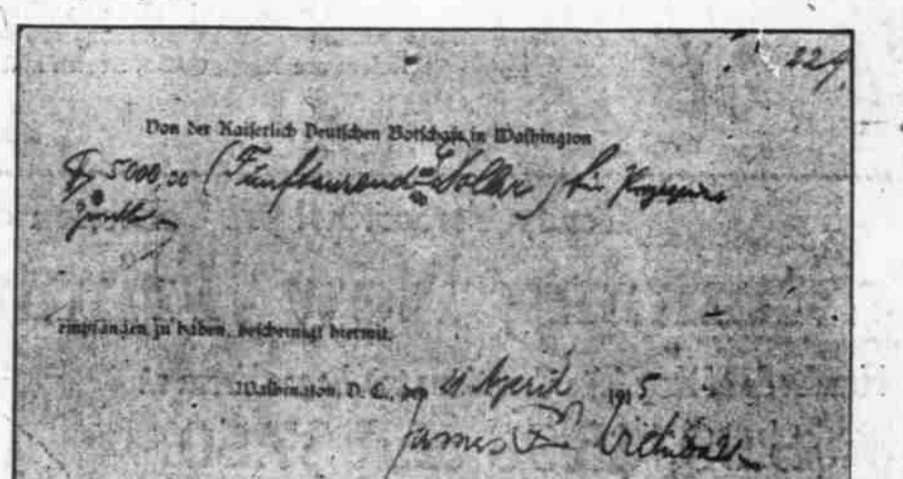
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This is a photographic reproduction of a code wireless message. It looks simple enough, but when it is translated into its real meaning this is what it says: "Irish agree to proposition. The necessary steps have been taken." This message was sent in connection with negotiations in which Supreme Court Justice Cohalan, of New York, seems to have been an active participant.



This is a photographic facsimile of the receipt given by "Jimmy" Archibald, of Washington, for five thousand dollars. Just what "Jimmy" did for this payment has not yet been divulged. It is known, however, that he wrote articles highly colored in favor of the German cause, but the publications who contracted for them found it unwise to print them. If that was what Bernstorff paid for he got stuck.

which was material factories have had to suffer and which it was not always possible to remove quickly, but which, on the contrary, often lead to long strikes, may be attributed to the energetic propaganda of the employment bureau.

Von Igel's close connection with the enterprise is indicated by a number of items. For example, there is a notation to the effect that H. Hanson had established a Liebau branch office in Detroit, an entry of \$50 paid to Dr. Max Niven, of Chicago, in February, 1916, for the "labor fund," and an inquiry addressed by a bureau official to Von Igel, asking whether the Bosch Magneto Works manufactured fuses for shells, the bureau having evidence by him applied to for workmen for the Bosch plant. The reply, in the negative, stated that the company was "universally known for its friendly attitude for the Germans."

**Had Several Lines.**

Several lines of communication between the German diplomatic service and the Irish revolutionary movement are indicated in the captured documents. John Devo, of New York City, now editor of the Gaelic American, a violent anti-British paper, was one of the active agents of this connection. Significant entries appear here and there; references to messages from the German embassy at Washington and the German consulate at New York; mention of a secret code to be employed in communicating with him and of a "cipher Devo"; also a notation, the details of which remain undiscovered, concerning "communication by means of a hand grenade." Devo it was who acted, for a time at least, as go-between for the German secret service dealings with Sir Roger Casement, executed by the British for treason. There are several references to money and messages for Sir Roger Casement, or, more briefly, "R. C." and one record of a check for \$2,000 paid to Casement, evidently handled by Devo.

Devo's intimate connection with the German cause is disclosed in two letters to Ambassador von Bernstorff, the text of which follows:

New York, April 8, 1916.

The following communication from confidential man John Devo was duly transmitted:

"Letter dated March 22, delayed by censor, seems conclusive that first messenger arrived safe with proposal to send supplies and that cable was suppressed. Second also safe. Third, with change of plans, due about April 15."

John Devo further requests that the following telegram be dispatched to Sir Roger Casement:

"No letter now possible. All funds sent home. Sister and M's family well."

Should Sir Roger be absent or ill, then J. L. request that the telegram be delivered to John Montagu. (Signed) K. N. St.

To His Excellency, the Imperial Ambassador, Count von Bernstorff.

Washington, D. C.

New York, April 15, 1916.

Herewith inclosed a report received by us today from John Devo. Kindly order further steps to be taken.

The important parts of the report were sent today per telegram. (Signed) K. N. St.

To the Imperial Ambassador, Count von Bernstorff.

Washington, D. C.

In view of the involvement of these prominent Irish-American leaders in

the Casement plot and its German ramifications, it is little to be wondered at that they should have been devoted to shoulder upon the American Government the responsibility for the arrest of Casement, the Gaelic American, Devo's paper, and the sympathetic German-American press charged this Government with having, on the strength of information obtained from the Irish Igel papers, advised the British government of the revolutionary plot and Casement's part therein.

**Refuted the Charges.**

The Department of State and the Department of Justice promptly refuted the charges. When the Von Igel papers were seized in New York the district attorney and his assistants busied themselves in a search for information to sustain the indictments which they had obtained against Von Igel, and overlooked for the time being the great mass of other evidence which pointed incriminatingly to others.

Department of Justice officials admit that the papers relating to Casement were sent to Washington the night before Casement's arrest was reported, but they were not received by the Attorney General until the afternoon of the day upon which the British authorities picked up the Irish leader, and were not presented to the State Department until seven o'clock the evening. Meanwhile, Casement had spent several hours in an Irish prison.

It is not improbable that the signature at the bottom of the extraordinary message which follows is in the "cipher Devo" referred to in the Von Igel papers. New York Supreme Court Justice Daniel F. Cohalan has long been prominent in Irish-American circles, though he has never